

#5-2622

00862.022011

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
:)
MINORU KUSAKABE, et al.)
:) Group Art Unit: 2622
Application No.: 09/671,623.)
:)
Filed: September 28, 2000)
:)
For: IMAGE PROCESSING) January 9, 2003
APPARATUS AND METHOD,)
AND STORAGE MEDIUM)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Technology Center 2600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

- (1) Japan 2-266390
- (2) Japan 5-219353
- (3) Japan 5-301380
- (4) Japan 6-121158
- (5) Japan 9-23333
- (6) Japan 10-304176
- (7) Japan 10-304179
- (8) Japan 11-27530
- (9) Japan 11-32202

These references were cited during prosecution of Japanese patent applications corresponding to the above-identified U.S. application. References (1), (4) and (5) were cited in a Japanese Office Action dated November 5, 2002; references (2), (3) and (9) were cited in a Japanese Office Action dated November 15, 2002; references (5), (6) and (7) were cited in a Japanese Office Action dated November 1, 2002; and references (5), (8) and (9) were cited in a Japanese Office Action dated November 1, 2002. Copies of these four Japanese Office Actions are also enclosed.

English-language abstracts for the cited Japanese documents have been located and are enclosed. The concise explanations of relevance for the cited Japanese documents are believed to be provided by the English-language abstracts.

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)			ATTY DOCKET NO. 00862.022011		APPLICATION NO. 09/671,623		
			APPLICANT MINORU KUSAKABE, et al.				
			FILING DATE September 28, 2000			GROUP 2622	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		2-266390	10/31/90	Japan			Abstract
		5-219353	8/27/93	Japan			Abstract
		5-301380	11/16/93	Japan			Abstract
		6-121158	4/28/94	Japan			Abstract
		9-23333	1/21/97	Japan			Abstract
		10-304176	11/13/98	Japan			Abstract
		10-304179	11/13/98	Japan			Abstract
		11-27530	1/29/99	Japan			Abstract
		11-32202	2/2/99	Japan			Abstract
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of form with next communication to applicant.